

Introduction

Even though research evidence supported the promulgation of the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Act of 1999 and its regulations, South Africa provides a unique case where legislation has largely preceded research and tobacco control interventions.

The act of 1999:

- prohibits direct advertising and promotion of tobacco products as well as prohibits advertising and promotion of tobacco products through sponsored events
- prohibits the free distribution of tobacco products
- limits tobacco use in public places including the work place
- prescribes the maximum yield of tar and nicotine in tobacco products

Before 1999, South Africa did not have nationally representative data on youth tobacco consumption.

- GYTS is a WHO and CDC initiative
- SA was one of 13 countries who conducted GYTS in 1999
- SA is one of 4 countries who has repeated GYTS in 2002
- Currently 150 countries of the 192 WHO member state are in various stages of GYTS
- The GYTS has provided a robust surveillance tool to monitor trends in tobacco use among school going adolescents.
- It has provided scientific evidence for the need for tobacco prevention and cessation interventions among adolescents.
- This is resulted in a successful NIH funded grant to test two tobacco-use prevention and cessation interventions in schools in Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.
- The fact that GYTS was conducted in 1999 and then repeated in 2002 places the study in a unique position to inadvertently evaluate the impact of the Tobacco legislation that was promulgated in 1999 and implemented in 2001.